

Bob's Way

The looped trails and 263 acres of Bob's Way provide typical New England landscapes: forested small hills, old foundations and stonewalls, a wetland, and a beaver pond. The outer loop takes about one hour. Two crossing paths can extend or shorten hikes, and one rises to the land's high point, with a bench and an overlook.

Directions: Located roughly 3 miles east of Monterey General Store on Route 23.

Towns: Monterey | Sandisfield

GPS: 42.1804, -73.1659 (Trailhead parking)



Photo: Gabrielle K. Murphy

WELCOME! WE INVITE YOU TO...

ENJOY this property on foot or snowshoes. Dogs are welcome. They must be under your immediate control and local leash laws apply. Hunting and fishing are permitted, subject to MA state regulations. No motorized vehicles are allowed.

PROTECT the trails, wildlife, and land. Carry out what you bring in, take only photos, and leave everything else just as you found it.

APPRECIATE that this land provides a home, food, and shelter to wildlife and protection for clean drinking water. Respect wildlife and keep your distance.

BE A LANDKEEPER. Please visit BNRC.org or call (413) 499-0596 for more information about this property, to learn about upcoming free guided walks and events here and around the Berkshires, and to support BNRC in preserving this beautiful landscape.

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THE LANDKEEPERS



BOB'S WAY TRAIL MAP



Trail Description:

Distance: 1.75 to 2.5 miles

Difficulty: Moderate (uneven footing, elevation changes)

Hikers on Bob's Way will have the choice of splitting off onto Cathcart Crossing, gradually climbs in elevation and leads to a sculpted-stone sitting place, Dave's Bench, or Truman Dowd Crossing.

The outer loop and crossing trails are ideal for hikers, snowshoers and cross-country skiers. Visitors will find evidence of long-ago settlement in stone walls and the Dowd house cellar hole near the beaver pond at the land's southern end. Also near the pond and just off the loop trail in the woods is a more puzzling historical remnant: an abandoned motorboat.

Natural history:

Bob's Way's woods offer a mix of Northern hardwoods, hemlocks, and occasional white pines, with stretches of mountain laurel. The forest, pond and wetlands are home to porcupines and otter, among other mammals. You may get to glimpse one of the beavers that keeps these marshy areas flooded to create prime habitat for a host of other wildlife. Near the pond is a mature oak-complete with a Berkshire Natural Resources Council sign-that a beaver gnawed halfway through at some point. The pond has also at times provided nesting sites for herons.